reductions being effected to the extent of Rs. 65,336. Supplementary grants to the extent of Rs. 20,720 were passed by the Council at its second meeting. Eleven resolutions on matters of general public interest were altogether discussed by the Council, of which one was carried and eight were withdrawn, while the remaining two were put to the vote and lost. While the Government thankfully acknowledge the high sense of responsibility and fairness displayed by the non-official members, they have no doubt that the non-official members would, in their turn, admit that the official members have honestly tried to understand the non-official view-point. In the apt words of Sir Harcourt Butler, the new constitution has "brought the administrative machine more effectively than ever before under the impact of public opinion". With a view to give the non-official side of the House an insight into the methods of official work and to secure closer co-operation between it and the official side, a Standing Finance Committee, consisting of three nominated officials and three non-official members elected by the Council, with the President of the Council as the President thereof, has been just constituted. This committee will examine the draft annual budget so far as the same is within the cognisance of the Council, all applications for supplementary grants, under votable items of expenditure, and such other matters as may be referred to it by Government. Over and above this, Government have sanctioned the appointment of as many as 5 special committees of the Council to examine the revised Rules for the constitution and conduct of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the working of the Government Press, the provision of accommodation in His Highness the Maha Raja's College, the distribution of educational scholarships, and the Rules regulating the grant of passes for the removal of timber from private lands, respectively.

49. **Devaswoms.**—I have already referred to the constitution of a separate department for the administration of Devaswoms. A separate Devaswom fund, composed mainly of a sum representing 40 per cent. of the recurring land revenue of the State, has been created, and miscellaneous items of receipts, such as offerings, will also go to the credit of this fund. The Devaswom Commissioner is the adviser to Government in all matters relating to Devaswom administration and he is responsible for the administration not only of Devaswoms, but also of *Japadakshina* and charitable institutions with the exception of the *Agrasala*. Sirkar Devaswoms have now been divided into three classes, major, involving an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 or more, minor, costing between Rs. 100 and Rs. 1,000, and petty, costing less than Rs. 100, annually. Rules are being drafted for the association of private gentlemen with the management of minor and petty Devaswoms. The principles on which the restoration of Devaswoms should be taken up have been laid down, under which such works will be attended to in the order of their urgency and importance. In regard to minor Devaswoms, the co-operation of the people of the locality will be sought and preference given to the restoration of those in regard to which a contribution of not less than 50 per cent. of the total estimated outlay is undertaken by those interested. Such works will be entrusted, as far as possible, to the leading men of the locality for execution. A special officer has been appointed for the verification of *tiruvâbharanams* in all the important Devaswoms. A new set of account rules relating to the administration of these institutions have also been brought into force from the 1st Makaram, 1098, the main advantages of which are that large sums of money will not be drawn in cash by the subordinate officers of the department and that promptitude will be enforced in the submission of accounts. The great importance of this long-looked-for measure to certain sections of His Highness the Maha Raja's subjects was referred to by me in my last year's Address. It has placed the holders of Sirkar Devaswomvaka lands in a position of perfect security and perfect equality with the holders of Pandaravaka lands, and it has removed the last trace of inequality in the matter of the appointment of all classes of His Highness the Maha Raja's subjects to all departments of the State civil service, with the exception, of course, of the Devaswom Department. It has freed land revenue officers of the heavy extraneous duty of administering Sirkar Devaswoms and has made it possible for them to pay greater attention to, and to perform more efficiently, their legitimate revenue work. It has also enabled the Government to effect a reduction in the

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number of taluks and Divisions. Further, it has benefited the Devaswoms themselves by placing their administration in the hands of a separate department, the activities of which are co-ordinated by a single head. I have already mentioned some of the many measures adopted by the Devaswom Commissioner for introducing method and avoiding waste in the administration of Devaswoms. I would only mention one more, in view of its special importance, *viz.*, the appointment of special officers to overhaul the land records relating to the immovable properties of two unincorporated Devaswoms, which would be productive of much good to the large number of tenants holding those properties.

50. Conclusion.—It will be seen from the foregoing paragraphs that the Government are striving their best to improve the efficiency of the administration, to keep down expenditure, to develop the material resources of the country, and to help the people in every form of activity that conduces to the advancement of their interests. Whatsoever of progress has been achieved in the administration of the State is wholly due to the wise guidance of His Highness the Maha Raja whose constant care is the welfare of his subjects.'

The Assembly adjourned at 1-15 P. M., to meet again the next day.

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